

# Maintaining Vegetative Measures

Maintenance of a vigorous plant cover insures proper protection along with improving the appearance of the area.

Maintenance activities should be planned as preventive treatment to avoid more serious problems later. These activities should occur on a regular basis consistent with favorable plant growth, weather, and use of the vegetation.

Common considerations for maintenance of vegetation are:

1. Make repair consisting of reseeding and/or mulching on small areas where vegetation is not satisfactory. Regular attention to small areas will save larger costs later.
2. Mowing frequency will depend on the location and use of the area, but mowing will be done frequently enough to control weeds and unwanted woody plants. The maximum amount depends on whether a short, dense turf is to be maintained. The type of equipment used is determined by the individual area. The mower should be sharp and operating properly so that vegetation is cut cleanly and not bruised excessively. Mowing height depends on grass species present, and frequency of mowing depends on the height of vegetation desired and rate of growth. Special attention is needed for herbaceous vegetation in outlets, waterways, and turf areas such as lawns and playgrounds.
3. New vegetation needs extra fertilization the first 2 or 3 years after establishment to maintain the desired plant density and improve the general vigor of the stand. Newly seeded areas need nitrogen fertilizer the first year after seeding. The phosphorus level should be maintained at medium to high levels, which means annual treatment on turf grass area and less frequent applications on areas with less intensive use. Limestone should be added as the need is indicated by soil tests made every 3 or 4 years.
4. Herbicides should be used as directed by local recommendations on those areas subject to the invasion of woody plants and weeds.
5. Dry vegetation and brush should be disposed of as this material detracts from appearance and is detrimental to the continued growth of established vegetation.